



DEPO REF
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
DIVISION

In re the Application of

Toshitaka IWAGO et al.

Application No.: 10/607,129

Filed: June 27, 2003

For: PAPER DISCHARGE TRAY

2006 APR 17 PM 4: 57

US PATENT & TRADEMARK
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ATTN:

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Docket No.: 116194

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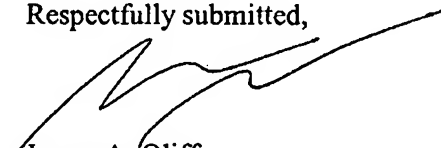
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a Monthly Statement of Deposit Account (dated February, 2006) showing a charge of \$200 related to the above-referenced application. This charge is marked with Fee Code 1201, which is the Patent Office Fee for Independent claims in excess of three. However, this application only contains three independent claims (claims 1, 21 and 24). A copy of the January 31, 2006 filed Amendment is also attached for the Patent Office's convenience.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this charge be credited to Deposit Account No. 15-0461 and that the Patent Office acknowledge this credit in writing.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

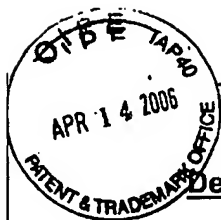
Scott M. Schulte
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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: April 14, 2006
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City: ALEXANDRIA
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DR

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshitaka IWAGO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/607,129

Examiner: D. GHATT

Filed: June 27, 2003

Docket No.: 116194

For: PAPER DISCHARGE TRAY

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 15, 2005 Office Action, please consider the following:

Amendments to the Claims as reflected in the listing of claims;

Remarks.

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Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A tray, comprising:
 - a surface with a first end and a second end opposite to the first end;
 - a projection extending away from the surface and from the second end of the surface, wherein the projection is formed integrally with the surface as a one-piece member;
 - and
 - a recess formed below the surface and from the projection toward the first end, wherein the tray is a discharge tray located at a downstream side of a feeding device that feeds documents.
2. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein when a first document is placed on the surface the first document extends from the first end and covers only a portion of the recess and when a second document is placed on the surface, the second document having a length longer than the first document, the second document extends from the first end and covers all of the recess and only a portion of the projection.
3. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein the first end is connected to a feeding device that feeds documents.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The tray of ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein the projection extends from the surface such that the projection has a height that is higher than a discharge point at which the documents are discharged from the feeding device.
6. (Currently Amended) The tray of ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein a distance between a discharge point at which the documents are discharged from the feeding device and an end of the recess located on the first end side is shorter than a length of the documents discharged onto the surface.
7. (Currently Amended) The tray of ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein the distance between a discharge point at which the documents are discharged from the feeding device and an end of the projection located on the first end side is not equal to a length of the documents discharged onto the surface.
8. (Currently Amended) The tray of ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein the projection has a first surface extending from the second end to a crease formed along the width of the projection

and a second surface extending from the crease to an end of the projection located on the first end side, with the first surface and the second surface extending from the crease toward the surface.

9. (Original) The tray of claim 8, wherein the surface and the second surface of the projection are on a same plane.

10. (Original) The tray of claim 8, wherein the second surface of the projection and the recess are on a same plane.

11. (Original) The tray of claim 10, wherein at least one second projection extends from the projection to the recess.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein the recess is not symmetrical.

18. (Original) The tray of claim 17, wherein a width of the recess decreases with proximity to the first end.

19. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein a width of both the projection and the recess is shorter than the width of documents discharged onto the surface.

20. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein a depth of the recess formed below the surface increases with proximity to the first end.

21. (Currently Amended) A tray, comprising:

a surface with a first end and a second end opposite to the first end;

a projection extending away from the surface and from the second end of the surface, wherein the projection is formed integrally with the surface as a one-piece member;
and

a recess formed below the surface and from the projection toward the first end
~~The tray of claim 1~~, wherein the tray is a document setting tray located at an upstream side of a feeding device that feeds documents.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) An image formation apparatus, comprising:

an image forming apparatus in which an image can be formed on a recording medium;

an image reading device that reads an image recorded on a document; and

the tray of claim 1 which receives the document after the image recorded on the document has been read by the image reading device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of scanning documents in an image formation apparatus, comprising:

feeding documents to a scanner one by one;

scanning the fed document;

discharging the scanned document to a discharge tray with a surface with a first end and a second end opposite to the first end, a projection extending away from the surface and from the second end of the surface, wherein the projection is formed integrally with the surface as a one-piece member, and a recess formed below the surface and extending from the projection toward the first end.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein when a first document is placed on the surface, the first document extends from the first end and covers only a portion of the recess and when a second document is placed on the surface, the second document having a length longer than the first document, the second document extends from the first end and covers all of the recess and only a portion of the projection.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 17-21 and 23-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8 and 21 have been amended and claims 4 and 22 have been cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 24 and 25 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-11 and 23. By this Amendment, the features of claim 4 have been incorporated into claim 1.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 6, 2005. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references and return a completely initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative with the next Patent Office communication.

The rejections of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 1, 2, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Dworkin, U.S. Patent No. 4,300,248, claims 1-3, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hovens et al. (Hovens), U.S. Patent No. 4,473,220, claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin in view of Southard, U.S. Patent No. 4,993,546, and claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin in view Kelley, U.S. Patent No. 5,509,529, have been rendered moot.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hovens in view of Tokunoh, U.S. Patent No. 5,515,513. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hovens and Tokunoh fail to disclose or suggest a tray with a surface, a projection and a recess, wherein the tray is a document setting tray located at an upstream side of a feeding device that feeds documents, as recited in claim 21.

Hovens discloses a staple removing and collecting appliance 5 located on a cover 1 of a copying machine (Fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 15-23). Hoven's Fig. 1 also discloses a document setting tray to the right of the cover 1 (i.e., located at an upstream side of a feeding device assumingly located in the cover 1). Hovens' appliance 5 (that allegedly includes the surface,

projection and recess of claim 21) is not located at the document setting tray and Hovens fails to provide any suggestion with regard to placing the appliance 5 on the document setting tray.

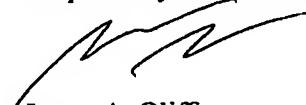
Tokunah fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hovens because Tokunah's document setting tray 152 also does not include a surface, projection and recess as recited in claim 21.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: January 31, 2006

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